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**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**November 30, 2010  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

**In Attendance:**

Abrishami, Lori  
Poe, Lisa

LACMTA  
SANBAG

**SCAG**

Atwater, Patrick  
Asuncion, John  
Kuo, Ryan  
Luo, Rongsheng  
Nadler, Jonathan  
Sangkapichai, Mana  
Sherwood, Arnie

**Via Teleconference:**

Baird, Barbara  
Behtash, Arman  
Bloomberg, Loren  
Brady, Mike  
Cacatian, Ben  
Chang, Elaine  
Clymo, Amy  
Drummonds, Eyvonne  
Fagan, Paul  
Gomez, Carol  
Krebs, Cindy  
Lay, Keith  
O'Connor, Karina  
Romo, Patricia  
Sonnenberg, Stew  
Tax, Wienke  
Wade, Dennis  
Walecka, Carla

SCAQMD  
Caltrans, District 12  
CH2MHILL  
Caltrans Headquarters  
VCAPCD  
SCAQMD  
CH2MHILL  
SCAQMD  
Caltrans, District 8  
SCAQMD  
OCTA  
LSA  
EPA, Region 9  
Riverside County  
FHWA  
EPA, Region 9  
ARB  
TCA

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Lisa Poe, SANBAG, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**3.1 Approval Item**

**3.1.1 TCWG October 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4.1 EPA's Proposed Partial Disapproval of the SCAB PM2.5 SIP**

Wienke Tax, EPA, reported the following:

- U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator signed a proposed partial disapproval of South Coast PM2.5 SIP on November 8, 2010. The proposal was published in Federal Register on November 22 and public comment period will end on January 21, 2011.
- The main reason for the proposed partial disapproval is that the SIP will not realize emission reduction from two ARB rules. EPA has not received and approved these rules. As a result, the attainment demonstration does not provide sufficient emissions reductions from adopted and EPA approved rules and is not approvable. Under the 1997 PM2.5 implementation rule, some other elements of the SIP cannot be approved because of the proposed disapproval of the attainment demonstration.
- EPA intends to work with ARB and the Air District to resolve the issue so that the attainment demonstration and the whole SIP can be approved.

In response to a question, Karina O'Connor stated that

- There are no immediate conformity implications because this is only a proposed rule.

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- However, if the rule would be finalized as currently proposed, the area would be in conformity freeze upon the effective date of the final action. During conformity freeze, only projects in the first four years of currently conforming RTP and FTIP could advance and no new plans or amendments could move forward. The conformity freeze would be lifted if a plan revision is submitted and EPA would make an adequacy finding on the budget in the plan. Moreover, if EPA would approve the plan, both conformity freeze and other sanctions would be lifted.
- Conformity lapse grace period or conformity lapse can occur only if the current RTP conformity finding expires and no new conformity determination can be made under conformity freeze. Highway sanctions can also trigger conformity lapse. However, EPA is working with ARB and the Air District to avoid either conformity freeze or conformity lapse.

Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB staff was diligently working with the Air District staff to address the EPA's concerns.
- ARB Board would take action on the truck and bus rules in December.

Elaine Chang, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- The two specific rules identified in the EPA's proposed rule had been adopted by the SCAQMD Governing Board. Emissions reductions from these two rules exceed their respective SIP targets. These rules were in the process of being submitted to ARB and then EPA.
- The SCAQMD Board would take actions on minor amendments to the other rules this coming Friday and the amendments would be submitted in a package after the Board action.
- The Air District will continue to work with EPA and ARB on other minor issues to gain a better understanding of the implications.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, commented that he appreciated every agencies' commitment to work together to resolve the issue and foresaw that it would occur. He noted that SCAG is not only concerned with conformity freeze or lapse but also with the timing of the resolution because SCAG is in the process of developing the 2012 RTP which requires emission budgets for conformity analysis. Mr. Nadler encouraged all the agencies to take the RTP timing into their consideration.

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4.2    Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) ORA000122

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

2) ORA000809

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

3) RIV\_46460 (updated)

It was reaffirmed that this is not a POAQC.

4.3    FTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- Federal approval of the 2011 FTIP was expected in mid December 2010.
- Staff was working on the 2011 FTIP Amendment #1 and planned to post the amendment this week for a 15-day public review. After the public review, the amendment will be forwarded to state and federal for their review and approval.

4.4    RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The 2008 RTP Amendment #4 was waiting for federal approval.
- Staff expected the first round of 2012 RTP outreach workshops to be held in January. These workshops are expected to be informational. Staff also expected to receive information on Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) development and local level TDM strategies from the sub-regions.
- The 2012 RTP website was expected to be launched sometime in December.

4.5    EPA update

Karina O'Connor, Environmental Protection Agency, reported the following:

- EPA expected to release the Quantitative PM Hot Spot Analyses Guidance document in December.

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- The federal register notice was also expected to be released in December which would start the grace period for the use of EMFAC and MOVES for project level conformity analysis.

4.6 ARB update

Dennis Wade, ARB, reported the following:

- ARB staff continued working on the new EMFAC and there is no definite release date.

4.7 Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- VCAPCD just completed the Call for Projects selection process which is an extension of the current SAFETEA-LU program funding and VCTC was expected to take action in December.

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

In response to a question, Wienke Tax, EPA, confirmed that the one-hour SO<sub>2</sub> primary NAAQS was published in the Federal Register on June 22, 2010.

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Lisa Poe adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on January 25, 2011 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.